SENATE BILL   No. 257

Introduced by Senator Alpert

February 18, 2003

An act relating to pupil testing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 257, as introduced, Alpert.   Pupil data.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to contract for the development of proposals to provide for the retention and analysis of longitudinal pupil achievement data on the tests administered pursuant to the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR), the English language development tests, and the high school exit exam.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to promote good data management practices with respect to pupil data systems and issues, including ensuring confidentiality, producing analyzable files, and linking data with data from other agencies. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to appropriate $6,000,000 for year 2 of the establishment of the longitudinal database and for data collection requirements, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1   SECTION 1.   It is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the
2 following:
3   (a) Promote good data management practices with respect to
4 pupil data systems and issues including, ensuring confidentiality,
5 producing analyzable files for approved users, and linking pupil

1 data with data from other agencies and users, including a
2 mechanism to monitor pupil progress in postsecondary education.
3   (b) Provide for data management and data sharing that is
4 conducted in a manner so as to protect individual pupil data.
5 Specifically, the systems should use unique identifiers that cannot
6 be traced to the pupil's identity.
7   (c) Establish state data management practices that require the
8 development of specific categories of users and uses for pupil data
9 and establish responsibility for approving and servicing users, as
10 well as, responsibility for establishing and posting protocols,
11 criteria, and procedures for use that are developed in a manner
12 consistent with recommendations of the State Department of
13 Education's advisory committee on privacy and data protocol.
14 Approved users should include school districts, charter schools,
15 state agencies with responsibility for education, legislative policy
16 analysts, evaluators of public school programs, and education
17 researchers from established research organizations.
18   (d) Require the State Department of Education, whenever
19 possible, to give competitive advantage in grant opportunities to
20 school districts that use the pre-identification process for state
21 assessments. This will serve to ensure the most accurate data
22 possible and assist districts in building accurate systems for
23 tracking individual pupil performance.
24   (e) Adopt a methodology for generating a "gain score"
25 measurement of academic performance by utilizing unique pupil
26 identifiers and annual academic achievement growth to provide a
27 more accurate measure of a school's growth over time.
28   (f) Appropriate six million dollars ($6,000,000) in the Budget
29 Act of 2003 for year two of the establishment of a longitudinal
30 database and for data collection requirements of the federal No
31 Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

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